

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE EXEMPLARY WORK OF LENA F. BLALOCK

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Lena F. Blalock of Pleasanton, Texas for her dedication and commitment to community service.

Judge Lena Blalock has made the people of her district proud, by tirelessly dedicating her time to the Municipal Court for 25 years. Judge Blalock, originally from Silvertown, Texas, has been the presiding Judge of the Pleasanton Municipal Court since 1985 and works day after day for the betterment of the Pleasanton community.

By working as a nurse during World War II, working for the police department as a dispatcher, and setting up a business in Pleasanton specializing in TV and radio equipment, Judge Blalock has lived an outstanding life of service to the Country and the community.

Judge Blalock has also been a member of the Church of Christ since 1946, and enjoys traveling, photography and crocheting. In her spare time, she also enjoys visiting senior citizens camps in the fall and spring.

Judge Blalock has demonstrated great dedication to community service and I am honored to recognize her accomplishments here today.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH ACT

#### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today a bill that is a critical component in our efforts to combat aquatic invasive species—the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act. This legislation is similar to legislation that was reported out of the House Science Committee in the 108th Congress. It creates a comprehensive research program that supports federal, state and local efforts to prevent invasive species from ever entering our waterways, as well as detection, control and eradication efforts once they are here. It complements a bill introduced today by Mr. GILCHREST in the House and Senators COLLINS and LEVIN in the Senate to reauthorize the National Invasive Species Act. This legislation is a critical component in our battle against these harmful and extremely damaging pests.

In undertaking this effort, I have found that many people wonder—“What is an invasive species? Why it is so crucial to keep them out of United States?” It is important that we understand these questions so that we can appreciate the scope of the threat that invasive species pose to our economy and environment.

The introduction of non-native species is not new to the United States. People have

brought non-native plants and animals into the United States, both intentionally and unintentionally, for a variety of reasons, since the New World was discovered. Some examples include the introduction of nutria (which is a rodent similar to a muskrat) by trappers to bolster the domestic fur industry, and the introduction of the purple loosestrife plant to add rich color to gardens. Both nutria and purple loosestrife are now serious threats to wetlands. Non-native species may also be introduced unintentionally, such as through species hitching rides in ships, crates, planes, or soil coming into the United States. For example, zebra mussels, first discovered in Lake St. Clair near Detroit in the late 1980s, came into the Great Lakes through ballast water from ships.

Not all species brought into the country are harmful to local economies, people and/or the environment. In fact, most non-native species do not survive because the environment does not meet their biological needs. In many cases, however, the new species will find favorable conditions (such as a lack of natural enemies or an environment that fosters propagation) that allow it to survive and thrive in a new ecosystem.

Only a small fraction of these non-native species become an “invasive species”—defined as a species that is both non-native to the ecosystem and whose introduction causes or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. However, this small fraction can cause enormous damage, both to our economy and our environment.

The economic damage includes the cost of control, damage to property values, health costs and other factors. Just one species can cost government and private citizens billions of dollars. For example, zebra mussels have cost the various entities in the Great Lakes basin an estimated \$3 billion during the past 10 years for cleaning water intake pipes, purchasing filtration equipment, and so forth. Sea lamprey control measures in the Great Lakes cost approximately \$10 million to \$15 million annually; and, on top of these expenses, there is the cost of lost fisheries due to this invader. In fact, invasive species now are second only to habitat loss as threats to endangered species.

Given the enormous economic and environmental impacts these invaders cause, two clear goals emerge: First, we need to focus more resources and energy into dealing with this problem at all levels of government; second, our best strategy for dealing with invasive species is to focus these resources to prevent them from ever entering the United States. Spending millions of dollars to prevent species introductions will save billions of dollars in control, eradication and restoration efforts once the species become established. In fact, one theme is central to both Mr. GILCHREST's bill and this legislation. It is an old adage, but one worth following—“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

To successfully carry out this strategy, we need careful, concerted management of this problem, supported by research at every step. For example, we know that we must do more

to regulate the pathways by which these invaders enter the United States (ships, aquaculture, etc.), which is an important component of Mr. GILCHREST's legislation. However, research must inform us as to which of these pathways pose the greatest threat and which techniques used to manage each pathway are effective. This legislation would help develop this understanding through the ecological and pathway surveys conducted under the bill. In fact, research underlies every management decision aimed at detecting, preventing, controlling and eradicating invasive species; educating citizens and stakeholders; and ensuring that resources are optimally deployed to increase the effectiveness of government programs. These items are also reflected in the legislation, which I will now describe in more detail.

The bill is divided into six main parts. The first three parts outline an ecological and pathway research program, combining surveys and experimentation, to be established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and the United States Geological Survey. This program is focused on understanding what invasive species are present in our waterways, which pathways they use to enter our waterways, how they establish themselves once they are here and whether or not invasions are getting better or worse based on decisions to regulate pathways. In carrying out this program, the three principal agencies will develop standardized protocols for carrying out the ecological and pathway surveys that are called for under the legislation. In addition, they will coordinate their efforts to establish longterm surveys sites so we have strong baseline information. This program also includes an important grant program so that academic researchers and state agencies can carry out the surveys at diverse sites distributed geographically around the country. This will give federal, state and local managers a more holistic view of the rates and patterns of invasions of aquatic invasive species into the United States. Lastly, the principal agencies will coordinate their efforts and pull all of this information together and analyze it to help determine whether or not decisions to manage these pathways are effective. This will inform policymakers as to which pathways pose the greatest threat and whether or not they need to change the way these pathways are managed.

The fourth part of the bill contains two programs to develop, demonstrate and verify technologies to prevent, control and eradicate invasive species. The first is an Environmental Protection Agency grant program focused on developing, demonstrating and verifying environmentally sound technologies to control and eradicate aquatic invasive species. This research program will give federal, state and local managers more tools to combat invasive

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

species that are also environmentally sound. The second is expansion both in terms of scope and funding of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Fish and Wildlife Service program geared toward demonstrating technologies that prevent invasive species from being introduced by ships. This is the federal government's only program that is focused solely on helping develop viable technologies to treat ballast water. It has been woefully underfunded in the past and deserves more attention.

The fifth part of the bill focuses on setting up research to directly support the Coast Guard's efforts to set standards for the treatment of ships with respect to preventing them from introducing invasive species. Ships are a major pathway by which invasive species are unintentionally introduced; the ballast water discharged by ships is of particular concern. One of the key issues that has hampered efforts to deal with the threats that ships pose is the lack of standards for how ballast water must be treated when it is discharged. The Coast Guard has had a very difficult time developing these standards since the underlying law that support their efforts (the National Invasive Species Act) did not contain a research component to support their work. This legislation provides that missing piece.

Finally, the sixth and final part supports our ability to identify invaders once they arrive. Over the past couple of decades, the number of scientists working in systematics and taxonomy, expertise that is fundamental to identifying species, has decreased steadily. In order to address this problem, the legislation sets up a National Science Foundation program to give grants for academic research in systematics and taxonomy with the goal of maintaining U.S. expertise in these disciplines.

Taken together, both my bill and Mr. GILCREST's bill represent an important step forward in our efforts to prevent invasive species from ever crossing our borders and combat them once they are here. New invaders are arriving in the United States each day, bringing with them even more burden on taxpayers and the environment. We simply cannot afford to wait any longer to deal with this problem, and so I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING RABBI MICHAEL  
ROBINSON OF SONOMA COUNTY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Michael Robinson of Sonoma County who has dedicated his life to the cause of social justice at home and around the world. From the American civil rights movement to the Nicaraguan Contra war to the Israel-Palestinian conflict Rabbi Robinson has been on the front lines promoting peace and the improvement of humanity. On April 14 he is being presented with the Jack Green Civil Liberties Award by the ACLU of Sonoma County for his lifetime of achievements in this arena. Nobody deserves this honor more than Michael Robinson.

Born in North Carolina, Robinson received his B.A. from the University of Cincinnati and

attended North Carolina State College before enlisting in the Navy during World War II. He served in the Pacific and became a pacifist immediately after this experience.

In 1952, after completing a course of study at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Robinson became the first North Carolina native to be ordained as a rabbi. He later earned his doctoral degree from the New York Theological Seminary and served in temples in Seattle and Pomona as well as 29 years as an activist leader at Temple Israel in Westchester, New York. During the civil rights movement, the synagogue raised money to help rebuild the black churches that had been burned in the South and finance the van used by the Freedom Riders to tour the South. Rabbi Robinson marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, and expressed his convictions with these words: "When I was 10 years old I began sitting on the back seat of the bus with 'colored people.' I never returned to the front seat."

After moving to Sonoma County with his wife Ruth, Rabbi Robinson served Shomrei Torah and is credited with growing the congregation from 30 families to now the largest Jewish congregation in Santa Rosa. Retired since 1996, Rabbi Robinson holds the title of Rabbi Emeritus at both Temple Israel and Shomrei Torah.

In addition to promoting affirmative action, same sex marriage, affordable housing, and other equality issues, Robinson has worked against nuclear war, apartheid, and all forms of injustice. He is known locally for his involvement in the Sonoma County Task Force on Homelessness, Children's Village, the Living Wage Coalition, Habitat for Humanity, the Sonoma County Peace and Justice Center, and the Sonoma Land Trust.

A founding member of Angry White Guys for Affirmative Action in 1996, Rabbi Robinson's words still resonate: "I hope that my anger will not dissipate until justice is done and every man, woman and child has equal access to all the privileges of a democratic society and receives equal respect."

Mr. Speaker, I share that passion and also Rabbi Robinson's hope that we as a Nation can become better people and create a just society. Michael Robinson is a model for all of us—from the ACLU of Sonoma County to those in distant lands who strive for basic rights. His words as well as his deeds are an inspiration that none who have come into contact with him will ever forget.

THANKING MR. WAYNE MYERS  
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in March 2005, we rise to thank Mr. Wayne Myers for 31 years of outstanding service to the United States government, with the majority of it here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Wayne began his government career in 1967 as a soldier in the U.S. Army where he was trained as a combat radio repairman and served a tour of duty in South Vietnam. Upon being honorably discharged in 1970, he con-

tinued his education in the electronics field. After 4 years, Wayne became a technician at the National Air and Space Museum and later transferred to the National Gallery of Art. In 1979 he joined the engineering staff of the House Recording Studio as it began the historic television coverage of House floor proceedings. For the past 25 years Wayne Myers has led by his quiet dependable example. He has been a selfless team player. His faith has given him the inner peace to work through the most tenuous times without complaint while still maintaining a great sense of humor.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Wayne for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

IN HONOR OF GAY, LESBIAN,  
STRAIGHT ALLIANCES AND THE  
NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join hundreds of thousands of young people across the Nation to "break the silence" surrounding the scourge of anti-gay bullying and harassment in our schools. In more than 4,000 schools in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, students have taken a day-long vow of silence to peacefully and poignantly draw attention to the abuse routinely faced by their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) classmates. Over 450,000 students are expected to participate in this year's National Day of Silence.

This ever-growing, student-led effort, co-sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and the United States Student Association, is a clarion call to parents, teachers, and school administrators to help end the all too common practice of dismissing or discounting student-on-student harassment. It is increasingly clear that young people of conscience will not sit idly by as their LGBT friends or classmates are preyed upon by bullies and bigots. They will stand up and speak out against such bigotry and intolerance, even if the adults in their lives will not.

We have all heard the saying, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me," which has been used for generations by countless children to fend off verbal attacks from their peers. Unfortunately, the notion that such verbal bullying or harassment is a "normal" and unavoidable part of growing up remains a widely accepted attitude amongst school administrators and teachers in this country. Too often, adults tend to dismiss or even romanticize schoolyard bullying as some sort of coming of age ritual or an inevitable "right of passage." Today, I join with the growing chorus of voices, including informed educators, children's rights advocates and students, who reject such anachronistic, survival-of-the-fittest thinking.

The uncomfortable truth is that "names" and labels can indeed hurt. For sensitive or vulnerable young people—particularly LGBT youth who are already struggling with their sexuality in a cultural and social context that often is overwhelmingly hostile to it—such verbal

abuse, and the social and emotional isolation that often accompanies it, can leave lasting emotional scars.

And too many schools have a culture that fosters and sustains a hostile environment for these youth. Surveys indicate that the average high school student hears 25 anti-gay slurs daily; 97 percent of high school students regularly hear homophobic remarks. Even more alarming are the results of GLSEN's most recent National School Climate Survey, which found that 84 percent of LGBT students had suffered some form of abuse and 82.9 percent of these reported that adults never or rarely intervened when present. It is unsurprising that such a pervasive atmosphere of harassment takes its toll. LGBT students are far more likely to skip classes, drop out of school and, most disturbingly, attempt suicide.

According to numerous studies, LGBT teens are 2 to 3 times more likely to attempt suicide. Such statistics are a sobering reminder that we must redouble our efforts to provide our children with safe and secure learning environments. No student should be harassed or attacked simply because they are perceived as different, or because they have had the courage to openly acknowledge their sexual orientation.

Through their actions, the student organizers and participants of the Day of Silence set an example for their peers and their elders alike. Their silence has spoken volumes about the need for us to recognize the corrosive climate of fear and intimidation that any kind of bullying creates. Our schools should be havens for learning and personal growth, not arenas for conflict and harassment. For their courage, their compassion, and their tenacity, I honor all those who took this vow of silence today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SHIRLEY JACKSON,  
PRESIDENT OF  
RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the educational leadership of Dr. Shirley Jackson. As university president, Dr. Jackson has helped shape Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, RPI, into one of the premier technological universities in the world.

A key aspect of Dr. Jackson's effort was the establishment of the "Rensselaer Plan," a collaborative roadmap joining together faculty, staff, students and alumni in an effort to make RPI an academic mecca within the Northeast region. During her tenure, she has increased the level of educational services the university can provide students in part by securing a \$360 million unrestricted gift to RPI, one of the largest single gifts ever given to an American university, and by doubling annual fundraising in the last 3 years.

The influx of new financial resources during Dr. Jackson's tenure has spurred the new construction of state-of-the-art research facilities, including the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies and the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center. These construction projects have cor-

responded with increases in National Institute of Health, NIH, research funding from \$400,000 in 1999 to \$30 million in 2004. These increases have allowed the university to hire over 100 new faculty members and expand research activities. Students benefit from these first class facilities and improved student-to-faculty ratio while having the opportunity to be involved in cutting edge research.

Again, I commend Dr. Shirley Jackson for her remarkable accomplishments in keeping RPI, my alma mater, a top-tier technological university.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF PEARSALL CITY COUNCILMAN  
CONRAD CARRASCO, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Pearsall City Councilman Conrad D. Carrasco, Jr.

Conrad Carrasco has long been an established part of Frio County's legal community. He entered public service in 1980, and served as Justice of the Peace for Precinct No. 3 through 1990. The Justice of the Peace is the judicial officer who works most closely with average citizens, and Mr. Carrasco's duties included the issuance of warrants and the settlement of small claims disputes between citizens. In this role, as in his other roles, Conrad Carrasco served the people of Frio County with distinction.

He was elected to the City Council of Pearsall in May, 2000. Mr. Carrasco has worked while on the council to safeguard Frio County's natural beauty and to ensure that the city is run in an accountable and effective manner. He serves in Place No. 3 on the Council, for a term that extends through May 2006.

Finally, he has distinguished himself as a businessman. He has been employed with KBJ's Loan Company since 1995, and continues to be a valuable part of his community's financial sector.

Conrad Carrasco has accumulated an impressive record of success in business and service to the people of Frio County. He is an important resource for his community, and I am proud to have had this opportunity to thank him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL  
INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to codify the Executive Order that established the Invasive Species Council and gave the Council responsibility for coordinating all invasive species activities across the federal government (Executive Order #13112, issued in February 1999). Invasive species, such as the snakehead fish and zebra mussel, cause an enormous eco-

nomc, ecological and human health toll on the United States every year. There are over 20 different federal agencies involved in prevention, eradication, control, monitoring, research and outreach efforts to deal with the threat of invasive species, and this Executive effort seeks to make these efforts more coordinated, effective and cost-efficient. Better management of invasive species efforts across federal agencies is critical to an effective response to this threat, and the Executive Order was the right first step. However, it is only the first step. Congress now needs to pass this legislation to give the Council more authority to effectively meet this threat.

Since its inception, the Council has made progress in achieving its mandate. In particular, in January 2001 the Council issued the National Management Plan to provide a general blueprint of goals and actions for federal agencies to better deal with invasive species. While this broad plan lacks detail in some areas, it helps focus the various federal efforts on common goals and coordinated actions. In addition, the Council established a federal advisory committee consisting of 32 members from a broad array of stakeholders. The advisory committee has met several times in order to provide guidance on the development of the National Management Plan and on federal agency actions regarding invasive species in general.

While the Council has had some success, its authority to coordinate the actions of federal agencies has been limited. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has recognized this problem, reporting that agencies did not incorporate the components of the National Management Plan into their annual performance plans. In addition, the GAO recommended that the Council study whether or not a lack of legislative authority has hampered its mission. Key agencies of the Council have already recognized this lack of authority as problematic and have supported codification of the Council in testimony before a November 2002 joint hearing of the House Resources and House Science Committees on aquatic invasive species.

The legislation I am introducing today essentially keeps the existing structure of the Council intact, while at the same time it addresses issues raised by the GAO by giving the Council a clear statutory mandate.

First, the legislation maintains the Executive Order's statement of administration policy that federal agencies should not undertake actions that may lead to the introduction or further spread of invasive species without careful consideration of the costs that the proposed action may cause. The legislation requires that the Council on Environmental Quality, in conjunction with the Council, issue guidelines for federal agencies to help them consider the consequences of any proposed action. The intent of this provision is to create a common set of guidelines by which all federal agencies can measure their actions, not to give individuals a private right of action against government agencies that take actions regarding invasive species.

Second, the legislation makes some modifications to the existing institutional structure of the Council. The membership of the Council will remain the same; however the legislation updates the membership, as described by the Executive Order, to reflect additional agencies that have been added since 1999. It also

makes the Council an independent entity within the Executive Branch, to be chaired on a rotating basis by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Commerce. This is a change from the Executive Order, which called for the Council to be housed within the Department of the Interior and chaired by that agency. If the Council is to be a truly independent entity that can work with all federal agencies, this change is necessary.

Third, the legislation retains the duties of the Council as described by the Executive Order (including development of an updated National Management Plan), but it adds some new duties in order to give the Council more tools to use in coordinating federal programs. In particular, the Council must submit an annual list of the top priorities in several different areas related to addressing the threat posed by invasive species. The legislation also specifically calls upon the Council to work with federal agencies during the budget development and submission process in order to ensure that budget priorities reflect the priorities of the National Management Plan. The legislation also calls on the Office of Management and Budget to develop a crosscut budget of all invasive species efforts in the federal government. This is a necessary tool for the Council to coordinate efforts among the various federal agencies.

Finally, the legislation retains the existing Invasive Species Advisory Council to serve as an important contributor to the ongoing dialogue between the federal government and stakeholders to ensure that the federal government acts in the most effective way.

This legislation will help further the federal government's efforts to combat invasive species, and I urge all of my colleagues to co-sponsor this important legislation.

#### HONORING PETALUMA BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

##### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Petaluma Branch of the American Association of University Women for 50 years of community service. AAUW Petaluma has tirelessly advocated for equity for women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. With over 200 members, AAUW Petaluma has developed a variety of successful methods to promote their agenda.

In recent years, the AAUW Petaluma has been awarded the Silver, Gold and Platinum awards for excellence in recruitment, program content, success of their projects, and their overall positive energy by AAUW National.

Many of the programs sponsored by AAUW Petaluma are integral in bringing our community together. For example, mentoring and tutoring programs in the high schools involving adults and peers have helped build intergenerational relationships, and the All-Petaluma Schools Community Art Show and Art Train Docents have helped keep art programs alive in the community.

AAUW Petaluma's community involvement does not stop there. The group has organized

community forums on health and planning issues. They exemplify an organization truly giving back to the community. In fact, I recently had the privilege of attending a developing relationships and connections event.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the American Association of University Women, Petaluma Branch as an organization that has for the past half-century contributed to the women, girls and community of Petaluma.

#### THANKING MR. ART NASH FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

##### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in March of 2005, we rise to thank Mr. Art Nash for 26 years of outstanding service to the United States government, with the majority of it here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Art began his government career in 1967 as a soldier in the U.S. Army where he was trained as an electronics technician and served two years. After 10 years in the private sector he began his House career at the House Recording Studio's engineering department in 1980. For the next 24 years, Art has been an indispensable member of the television floor coverage crew, the Recording Studio tape room and maintenance shop.

Art has been described as a man of God who loves all people. His positive attitude has been his trademark and the term "detail man" best describes him. He has been an excellent teacher to his co-workers and all those around him. He has taken his time to do the job right or find an even better way. Service has been his greatest achievement. Whether it was during the long hours that the House was in session or working side by side with his co-workers, Art Nash has given his best.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Art for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

#### HONORING THE DEDICATION OF ATASCOSA COUNTY APPRAISER EDDIE BRIDGE

##### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Atascosa County Appraiser Eddie Bridge.

Eddie Bridge is a hard working member of our community, helping to appraise real estate and personal property in Bee, Crane, Crockett, and Refugio Counties. He also spends his time consulting and assisting the staff members of Frio, Hall, Irion, Martin, Menard, and Starr Counties in both physical and statistical reappraisals. Starting off as a Valuation Consultant with Pritchard and Abbot in 1993, Mr. Bridge has many years of experience in his special line of work.

Mr. Bridge is a model of energy and commitment, often working from eight in the morning till nine in the evening. Despite his demanding schedule, Mr. Bridge still finds time for ranching and running cattle.

Eddie Bridge lives in Pettus with his wife of 24 years and his two children. Both of his children are Valedictorians and his son Edward II serves at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Our Nation is built upon the hard work and dedication of citizens like Eddie Bridge, and it is important to recognize the value of their daily contributions to both town and country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Atascosa County Appraiser Eddie Bridge.

#### HONORING OUR NATION'S YOUTH ON THE 10TH ANNUAL KICK BUTTS DAY, AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TOBACCO

##### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our nation's youth today on the 10th annual Kick Butts Day, an annual celebration of youth leadership and activism in the fight against tobacco use.

Over the past 10 years, our nation has made significant progress in reducing youth smoking rates. Young people themselves have played a major role in this success. We should be proud that we've reduced smoking rates among high school students by 40 percent since 1997, when smoking rates among youths peaked at an alarming 36.4 percent.

But we have more work to do. About 22 percent of high school students still smoke. Tobacco is still the leading preventable cause of death in our country, killing more than 400,000 people every year. On Kick Butts Day, we should commit to finishing the job of protecting our kids from tobacco addiction by supporting science-based tobacco prevention measures, strong deterrents to youth smoking, well-funded tobacco prevention and cessation programs, smoke-free air laws, and FDA authority over tobacco products and marketing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert in the RECORD the attached report by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids entitled "Ten Years of Kicking Butts: Reducing Youth Smoking in the United States." It is a valuable summary of the progress we have made in reducing youth smoking, the evidence that common sense solutions work, and the need still to redouble our efforts.

#### TEN YEARS OF KICKING BUTTS: REDUCING YOUTH SMOKING IN THE UNITED STATES—KICK BUTTS DAY 10TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT

On May 7, 1996, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids held the first annual Kick Butts Day to focus the nation's attention on the serious and growing problem of youth tobacco use in our country. At that time, youth smoking rates had been rising alarmingly for several years, fueled by cigarette marketing campaigns such as Joe Camel and the Marlboro Man that appealed to youth and deep price cuts that made cigarettes more affordable to kids. In 1997, smoking

rates among high school students reached an all-time-high, with 36.4 percent of high school students reporting that they were current smokers.

As we celebrate the 10th annual Kick Butts Day on April 13, 2005, the picture is much improved. After nearly 10 years of hard work, our nation has turned the tide, and we are making unprecedented progress in reducing youth tobacco use in our country. By implementing scientifically proven solutions like tobacco tax increases, well-funded tobacco prevention programs and smoke-free air laws, we have reduced smoking rates among high school students by 40 percent since 1996.

Still, there is much work to be done. Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in our country, killing more than 400,000 people and costing the nation more than \$89 billion in health care bills every year. A quarter of all high school seniors still smoke, and another 2,000 kids become regular smokers every day, one-third of whom will die prematurely as a result.

Perhaps most troubling, a survey released March 31, 2005, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that our progress in reducing youth smoking has slowed considerably or stalled completely. The survey found no statistically significant change in either high school or middle school smoking rates from 2002 to 2004.

Public health experts have pointed to several reasons for this leveling off in youth smoking rates: While states have cut tobacco prevention funding by 28 percent in the last three years and the American Legacy Foundation has also had funding reduced for its effective, national truth® youth smoking prevention campaign, the tobacco companies have increased their marketing expenditures to a record \$12.7 billion a year—more than \$34 million a day. More than two-thirds of all tobacco marketing dollars is spent on cigarette price discounts and free cigarette giveaways that make cigarettes more affordable to kids, who are very price-sensitive.

The recent CDC survey is a wakeup call to elected leaders at all levels that we cannot take continued progress in reducing youth smoking for granted and must redouble efforts to implement proven measures to reduce tobacco use, including tobacco tax increases, well-funded tobacco prevention programs, and smoke-free air laws. It is also critical that Congress enact legislation granting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate tobacco products, including the authority to crack down on marketing and sales to kids. If we take these steps, our nation will continue to achieve significant reductions in youth tobacco use. If we fail to do so, the progress we have made is at risk and could even reverse.

This report summarizes the progress we have made in reducing youth smoking in the United States and the challenges that remain.

#### PROGRESS IN REDUCING YOUTH SMOKING, SAVING LIVES AND SAVING MONEY

High school smoking rates have been reduced by 40 percent since reaching an all-time-high in 1997—in 1997, 36.4 percent of high school students smoked; today about 22 percent smoke (source: CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Youth Tobacco Survey).

Youth smoking rates have been reduced among all vulnerable age groups. Since smoking rates peaked in 1996–1997, we have reduced smoking by 56 percent among eighth graders, 47 percent among tenth graders and 31.5 percent among twelfth graders (source: National Institute on Drug Abuse Monitoring the Future Survey).

These declines mean that there are roughly 2 million fewer high school kids smoking

than there would have been if smoking rates had remained constant.

These reductions in youth smoking will prevent 600,000 premature deaths due to smoking.

These reductions in youth smoking will save \$32 billion in tobacco-related health care costs.

#### SUCCEEDING BY IMPLEMENTING SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN SOLUTIONS

Our nation has succeeded in reducing youth smoking by implementing scientifically proven solutions, including tobacco tax increases, tobacco prevention programs funded with tobacco settlement and tobacco tax dollars, and smoke-free air laws that require all workplaces and public places to be smoke-free. We are making significant progress in implementing these solutions:

**Cigarette Taxes**—Forty-one states and DC have increased cigarette taxes since 1995, some more than once for a total of 79 separate cigarette tax increases. The average state cigarette tax has increased from 30.3 cents per pack on June 30, 1995, to 84.7 cents a pack (once all already approved cigarette taxes take effect July 1, 2005).

**Smoke-Free Air Laws**—In 1998, California became the first state to require all restaurants and bars to be smoke-free. Today, 10 states and 234 communities across America have strong smoke-free workplace laws. Seven states—California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island—have smoke-free laws that require all workplaces, including restaurants and bars, to be smoke-free. Three states—Florida, Idaho and Utah—have smoke-free laws that include restaurants, but not bars. Such laws now cover more than a third of the nation's population.

**State Tobacco Prevention Programs**—In 1996, only three states—Arizona, California and Massachusetts—had well-funded tobacco prevention programs. Today, 13 states do.

**National Public Education Campaign**—Another key factor in youth smoking declines has been the American Legacy Foundation's national truth® youth smoking prevention campaign. A study published in the March 2005 issue of the American Journal of Public Health found that declines in youth smoking accelerated after the launch of this campaign in 2000 and that there was a significant dose-response relationship between exposure to the truth® campaign's anti-smoking advertising and declines in youth smoking between 2000 and 2002, the period of the study.

#### DESPITE PROGRESS, CHALLENGES REMAIN

While our nation has made significant progress in reducing youth smoking, our work is far from done:

Tobacco use is still the nation's leading preventable cause of death, killing more than 400,000 people every year and sickening millions more.

Tobacco use costs our nation more than \$89 billion in health care bills and \$88 billion in productivity losses each year.

About 25 percent of high school seniors still smoke.

Every day, another 2,000 kids become regular smokers, one-third of whom will die prematurely as a result.

The tobacco industry is spending record amounts to market its deadly and addictive products. Since 1996, total tobacco marketing expenditures have increased by 144 percent to a record \$12.7 billion a year—more than \$34 million a day, according to the Federal Trade Commission's most recent annual report on cigarette marketing (for 2002). The tobacco companies spend more than \$23 to market cigarettes and other tobacco products in the U.S. for every dollar the states spend on programs to protect kids from tobacco. More than two-thirds of all tobacco

marketing dollars is spent on cigarette price discounts and free cigarette giveaways that make cigarettes more affordable to kids, who are very price sensitive.

While the tobacco companies have increased their marketing, the states have cut funding for tobacco prevention programs by 28 percent in the last three years (from \$749.7 million in Fiscal 2002 to \$542.6 million in Fiscal 2004). These cuts decimated some of the nation's most successful tobacco prevention programs, including those in Florida, Massachusetts and Minnesota. While more states have well-funded tobacco prevention programs today than 10 years ago, the bad news is that 37 states and DC are funding prevention programs at less than half the CDC's recommended minimum amount or providing no funding at all.

The progress of the past decade has shown that we have proven solutions to reduce tobacco use, including cigarette tax increases, well-funded tobacco prevention programs and smoke-free air laws. These solutions are the equivalent of a vaccine that protects kids from tobacco addiction and its deadly consequences. But like other vaccines, this vaccine must be administered to every generation of children. Otherwise, the tobacco epidemic will explode again, at great cost in health, lives and money.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS USA, CHELSEA COOLEY

#### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on April 11, 2005, Miss North Carolina, Chelsea Cooley, won the Miss USA pageant. I congratulate her on this momentous accomplishment and want her to know that everyone in her hometown of Charlotte, NC, is very proud of her.

The Miss USA pageant is a competition where America's best and the brightest young women compete for the crown of Miss USA. It is truly a great accomplishment for Chelsea to have been crowned as the winner of this tough competition.

Currently, Chelsea is studying fashion marketing at the Art Institute of Charlotte. She listed that her dream job would be working as a buyer for Ralph Lauren. I have no doubt that she can achieve this, and many other, dreams.

Chelsea will now go on to represent the U.S. this May in the Miss Universe competition in Bangkok, Thailand. Chelsea's hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina, will again be cheering her on as will the whole country. We know she will represent us well and will do our country proud.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEW BRAUNFELS CITY ATTORNEY CHARLES E. ZECH

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of City Attorney Charles E. Zech.

Charles Zech serves as the City Attorney for New Braunfels, Texas. He handles all aspects

of municipal representation for the City of New Braunfels by providing representation and legal advice to the City Council, city employees, and 27 boards and commissions.

Before graduating from Southwest Texas State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Economics and Finance, Mr. Zech was a member of the United States Navy. He went on to receive his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law. Attorney Zech is licensed to practice in all County and District Courts of Texas, the Texas Supreme Court, and the United States District Court.

He is a member of the Texas Bar Association, the San Antonio Bar Association, the Comal County Bar Association, and the Phi Alpha Delta International Legal Fraternity.

As an active member of the Board of Directors of the Texas City Attorney's Association and the chair of the ethics section of the International Municipal Lawyers Association, it is obvious that Mr. Zech plays an active role in the legal community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize New Braunfels City Attorney Charles Zech for his dedication and contributions to the community and his service to our Country.

CONGRATULATING THE PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, DR. JAMES A. HEFNER, ON HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Dr. James A. Hefner, President of the Tennessee State University, and to congratulate him on the occasion of his upcoming retirement on May 31, 2005.

During 14 years of leadership as President of TSU, Dr. Hefner has operated under the motto that "a passionate faculty are the most important instruments of change in the academic environment." He is indeed "passionate" about encouraging students to reach higher academic heights and he is a strong advocate for excellence in education.

Dr. Hefner has helped countless students realize their educational goals and subsequent contributions to the community. Under his leadership, enrollment at TSU has grown from 7,405 in 1991 to 9,100. Dr. Hefner has elevated the standing of TSU to the extent that, for the past 11 years, the University has been consistently recognized in the U.S. News & World Report's "Guide to America's Best Colleges."

His rich career has spanned many areas of academia. Dr. Hefner has held positions as president of two universities, administrator, professor, writer and speaker. He credits the single common element of his success to his devotion to students. He strives to improve the education and financial conditions of minorities and is recognized as a renowned authority on minority economic issues. Dr. Hefner has authored 50 articles on economic research and authored or co-edited two books: *Black Employment in Atlanta* and *Public Policy for the Black Community: Strategies and Perspectives*.

He has served on many regional and national boards and associations dedicated to scholarship in economics, labor relations and public management. He is a consultant to the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Institute of Public Management, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Department of Transportation. In addition to numerous honors, publications and professional leadership positions, Dr. Hefner was awarded the Presidential Leadership Award from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (the organization's highest honor) and the Achievement Award in Research.

On behalf of the Fifth District of Tennessee, I join with Tennessee State University as they celebrate Founders Day to thank my friend and colleague, Dr. James A. Hefner, for his generosity, commitment and dedication to American scholarship and service to the State of Tennessee. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on his retirement and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA HAVENS

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Patricia Havens, who has dedicated her life to preserving, researching and re-telling the history of my hometown of Simi Valley, California, and who will be honored this Saturday for her decades as a teacher, director and author in pursuit of that dedication.

Forty years ago, Pat Havens and 3 others founded the Simi Valley Historical Society. The society, largely under Pat's guidance, has been responsible for documenting and saving local buildings and antiques of historical significance. Many of them are now housed at the Strathearn Historical Park and Museum, where Pat serves as the Museum Director. The projects are ongoing.

The society is currently renovating Simi Valley's first house of worship, which opened as a Presbyterian church in 1902 and became a Catholic church 10 years later. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District purchased the building in 2002 and moved it to Strathearn Park, where it joins the Simi Adobe, which was built during the early days of the city's Spanish period beginning in 1795; the Strathearn family farmhouse that was built onto the adobe in 1892; the Simi Valley Library building that served the community from 1930–1962; and many other buildings and artifacts that tell the valley's story.

Preservation has not been enough for Pat Havens, however. Thirty years ago she began teaching the "History of Simi Valley" program and five years ago, in collaboration with Bill Appleton, she published through the historical society a comprehensive history of the valley, "Simi Valley: A Journey Through Time."

The City Council named Pat as Simi Valley's first City Historian while I was mayor of the city, a post she still holds.

Pat's ties to Simi Valley run deep. Although born in Arkansas, she moved here as a young girl and graduated from Simi Valley High School in 1947 with her future husband, Neil. Neil Havens served as the city's postmaster

for 30 years, following in the steps of his father and grandfather, and died peacefully last year. Together they raised three children in Simi Valley, Debra, Barbara and Russ.

During Pat's lifetime, Simi Valley transformed from a farming community into a thriving suburban city of 120,000 people. Thanks in large part to her efforts, Simi Valley's past was preserved before it slipped away. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Pat Havens for dedicating 40 years to preserving Simi Valley's history and for helping to make it relevant to our lives today.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOMAS C. LOPEZ OF THE SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas C. Lopez of the San Antonio Independent School District for his dedication to public service.

A long time resident of Texas, Thomas C. Lopez was born in San Antonio. He is a strong believer in his community, where he continues to work hard ensuring that our children receive the education that they deserve.

Thomas C. Lopez is no stranger to public service. He spent thirty-four years in the United States Army Reserve in active and reserve time. Having served his country, he retired with the rank of Major in 2004.

A strong believer in education, Mr. Lopez currently serves as Secretary and District 5 Trustee of the San Antonio Independent School District. He has also helped to improve our community through his involvement with the Affordable Housing Board of San Antonio Housing Services.

Mr. Lopez has striven to achieve the continued rebuilding of our inner-city neighborhoods. Because of his dedication toward education and housing, San Antonio, Texas is a better place for our families to live.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize Thomas C. Lopez of the San Antonio Independent School District for his dedicated service to his community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON HIS DEATH

SPEECH OF

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 6, 2005*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

As the first non-Italian pope in 455 years, Karol Wojtyla would have drawn distinction no matter what his papacy held. However, his 26-year reign as the 264th pope has proven to be a remarkable and historic papacy.

Perhaps it was the very nature of the Holy Father's upbringing—the personal tragedies he underwent as a youth, as well as his firsthand experiences with the totalitarianism of Nazism, then Communism—that shaped his world view and enabled him to serve as pope with such zeal and commitment.

His was a lifespan that began in a world of biplanes and horse-drawn carriages, saw the advent of spaceflight and nuclear bombs, and ended in a “global neighborhood” made possible by personal computers and instant communications. Perhaps only someone with these experiences could have appropriately taken on the challenges of the 21st Century in such a dynamic and tireless manner.

His worldwide travel, where he gained the attention of people of many faiths and embraced Catholics on all continents, will constitute a lasting legacy. Many Americans witnessed, first hand, the strength of his conviction and dedication to his mission during the Holy Father's 7 historic visits to the United States. In 1987 he honored my home city of Los Angeles with a visit that Angelinos still talk about. Those arduous travels, even during his years of declining health, demonstrated the importance of perseverance and faithful struggle.

Pope John Paul II was an inspiration to all generations throughout his 26-year reign. He inspired in us a sense of hope and self worth that encouraged us to live better, fuller lives. He reached out to the world's youth and taught them the value of integrity, courage, honesty, and forgiveness.

And despite the many challenges the Church faced during his papacy, he was admired for his resoluteness, even as Catholics around the world reacted in numerous ways to his direction of the church.

John Paul II was not just the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, however, he was a world leader, and he actively shaped world affairs including negotiating peace treaties and helping ensure the end of European Communism. He reasserted the Church's role on the world stage and was a global champion on issues of conscience, social justice, and peace. The tremendous outpouring of genuine sorrow throughout the world since the Pontiff's death is a testament to the impact his ministry had on people of all continents and all faiths.

Mr. Speaker, the “Shoes of the Fisherman” are empty, and I extend my sincere sympathy to my constituents, including Roger Cardinal Mahoney, all Los Angeles-area Catholics and all people of good will who mourn the Pontiff's passing.

Pope John Paul II's life of service was a life well lived, and it will be remembered in the hearts and minds of the people he touched around the globe for many generations to come.

#### NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship for their commitment to a competition that is

all-inclusive and sensitive to religious minorities.

The National High School Mock Trial Championship is a prestigious event that requires a tremendous amount of preparation, skill, and dedication on behalf of those students who are competing, and is looked upon with distinction by institutions of higher learning. The Torah Academy from Teaneck, New Jersey, located in my Congressional District, won the New Jersey State Bar Foundation competition, and advanced to the national championship, which is to be held on May 4–7, 2005 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The members of the mock trial team from Torah Academy observe the Sabbath, in accordance with their practice of Orthodox Judaism, and will therefore not be able to participate in any National High School Mock Trial Championship competition from sundown on Friday, May 6 through sundown on Saturday, May 7, 2005. After much discussion between the school, the national organizers, the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, and me, the Torah Academy will now be able to participate fully without being forced to violate its members' religious beliefs. The national organizers of the event have agreed to rearrange the schedule of the tournament to accommodate students of all religious faiths.

I thank the Board of Directors of the National High School Mock Trial Championship for their willingness to change the schedule to allow all students to fully compete in this competition. This is fundamentally a question of equal access and the right of religious minorities to participate in a competition open to students from every walk of American life, and I encourage the national organizers to restructure the schedule of competitions in future years with this in mind.

#### HONORING THE EXEMPLARY WORK OF THE PLEASANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary work of the Pleasanton Police Department of Texas. They have shown outstanding dedication and commitment to the community for 53 years.

The Police Department was founded in 1952 and the first Chief of Police was Joe Sanders. Since 1952 there have been eight chiefs of police, and today the police department is made up of 16 commissioned officers, 5 communications operators and 1 data entry clerk.

The Pleasanton Police Department officers are devoted to performing their jobs in a professional manner while they are serving the community and the surrounding areas. The police department encourages all of its members to engage in community-building practices in order to provide quality service to all residents of the Pleasanton community.

The Pleasanton Police Department always strives to provide the highest quality service, while achieving the goals of the department serving the city and community. Currently holding the position of Chief is Gary Soward and Assistant Chief is John Eric Rutherford.

The men and women of the Pleasanton Police Department are committed to excellence in leadership, providing progressive and proactive services that help to develop community partnerships and building for a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the noble service of all the officers at the Pleasanton Police Department.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM LEHMAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, Congressman William Lehman of Florida. In his passing, I have lost a dear friend, Congress has lost a role model, and the Nation has lost a brave leader and national hero.

Congressman Lehman was, above all, a true liberal, dedicated to equality among races and classes. He opened his used car dealership in a black neighborhood, and was one of the few dealers in the 1940's and 1950's—white or otherwise—who would finance cars for black customers. He supported issues that were important to poor communities, fighting against highways that divided and ruined communities, and bringing home more than \$800 million for a Metrorail system in Miami, providing multiple ways for the poor to get to and from work.

He was also a gifted politician, inspiring loyalty in his committee members and his party. He neither dictated policy, nor ran his subcommittee overseeing highways, seaports and mass-transit systems with an iron fist, but by striking a perfect balance between offering incentives to cooperate and promising consequences to those who didn't. He knew all the legislative routes, and successfully steered bills he believed would benefit his constituents and the country around the road blocks and land mines in the House. If he was defeated on the House floor, he would work tirelessly in the conference committee to ensure the soundest legislative policies were written into law.

Bill was respected on both sides of the aisle, and had friends in both parties and all over Capitol Hill. He conducted himself with dignity, and he showed others that he believed in the issues he fought for, and wasn't merely supporting them for political purposes. When you hear people describe him, they almost always include the words “honest” and “moral”, attributes that are rarely connected with politicians in this day and age, but which truly fit Bill.

Even after becoming one of the more influential members of Congress, he never lost touch, with his roots. He maintained his southern accent and his unpolished yet powerful manner of speaking throughout his career, and continued to dine and spend time in his old neighborhood.

One would be hard pressed to find a Congressman who took more risks, and for more noble reasons, while in office. In 1988 he chartered a plane to Cuba and successfully



negotiated the release of three political prisoners, endearing him to the conservative Cuban community in his district. Seven years earlier he had negotiated the release of a political prisoner in Argentina, and he smuggled an artificial heart valve into the Soviet Union for an ailing 22 year old woman.

In my mind, Bill was more than a gifted colleague and a good person; he was a very close friend. I can attest that this is one of the rare cases where the statements being made about a person after his death are absolutely true. He was as good of a person in life as he is being described in death—a smart, moral, genuinely decent human being, one whose company it was a pleasure to keep.

Over the years I had the pleasure of working with Congressman Lehman a number of times. We served on the House Judiciary committee together, and in 1982 we traveled to several Latin American countries, including Nicaragua to investigate illegal arms sales. He was as much of a gentleman in the professional world as he was in the personal one.

Our country has experienced a great loss. Congressman Lehman was the kind of man who does not come around often, and we were blessed to have him in Congress. He was a role model to politicians everywhere and an inspiration to citizens all across the Nation. He will be sorely missed wherever he was known.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL J. BENNETT'S 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ST. MARK'S SCHOOL OF TEXAS

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael J. Bennett's 40 years of teaching at St. Mark's School of Texas. I am proud to represent St. Mark's in the 32nd Congressional District of Texas.

Born four months before the German Blitz, Michael Bennett grew up "in the East End of London, not the rich part, but the tough part." He attended the East Ham Grammar School for Boys where he skipped his fifth year. As a "Sixth Former" or Senior, he was expected to specialize in an academic area to prepare for the demanding A Level exams. His father, understanding the importance technology would play in revitalizing post-war England, suggested he study Science. But as Michael recalled, while in Science class one day the Headmaster said "This is not the place for you . . ." and he was right . . . I chose the Classics and that has made all the difference."

Michael passed his A Levels and was awarded a scholarship to study at Christ Church, Oxford where he studied Classics and graduated with honors, earning both a B.A. and M.A. He would later earn another Master's Degree from the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College. Michael has also studied at the Vergilian Society School at Cumae.

At the age of 22, he joined the faculty of the St. Andrew's School in Middletown, DE as teacher, debate coach, and Head of the Classics Department. Three years later, in 1965, he came to St. Mark's. During his tenure at St. Mark's he has taught Latin, Greek,

English, Debate and Fine Arts. He served as advisor for the Trivia Club, the Film Society, and the Junior Classical League. He was a member of the Curriculum Study Group and founded the Classical Society that presented plays in Latin by Roman playwrights Plautus and Terrence. In addition to teaching Latin, he currently serves as Senior Master, Chairman of the Faculty Advisory Committee, Latin Club Sponsor, Chairman of the John H. Murrell Awards Committee, Seventh Grade Class Sponsor, and President of Cum Laude. Outside school, he is the Opera critic for Northside People.

Michael is married to Dena, a freelance writer. He has two children. Sarah lives in Tacoma, WA where she is a child and family counselor. His son Paul, an alumnus from the Class of 1980 from St. Mark's is an attorney who lives in Annapolis, MD with his wife and three children, Jeffrey, Allison and Annie. Michael proudly notes that grandson Jeffrey is a straight "A" student in his Latin class.

I would like to extend my sincere congrats to Michael and his family on this great occasion and wish him additional success as he continues to teach at St. Mark's.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF McMULLEN COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR ANGELA BOSWICK

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the McMullen County Tax Collector Angela Boswick for her dedicated public service.

Angela Boswick is a proud native of Southwest Texas. She was born in Menard, Texas, where she attended Menard High School.

She began her professional life in the banking industry. During that period, she acquired the expertise and competence in finance that have stood her in such good stead during her work for the county.

Ms. Boswick has lived in McMullen County for the past 25 years. She entered public service in the tax office 15 years ago. Her hard work and competence have been repeatedly recognized by the county, and she has repeatedly been promoted, eventually rising to her current position as County Tax Collector.

Angela Boswick has been married for 10 years, and has further contributed to her community by raising two wonderful girls. She is the kind of public servant who holds our towns and cities together: hardworking, accountable, persistent and dedicated. Too often, the public servants who hold vital but low-profile positions such as tax collector do not get the recognition they deserve. For that reason, I am especially happy to have had the chance to thank Angela Boswick here today.

EXPRESSING LAMENT FOR THE GOUDSWARD FAMILY

### HON. FRANK PALLONE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the House floor to express my deep sorrow for

Diana Goudsward Collentine and her daughters, Kristina and Jennifer, the daughter and granddaughters of James and Marjorie Goudsward. On January 4, 2002, Diana and her two daughters were walking in a school safety zone in Waldwick, NJ when they were struck by an automobile operated by a medically impaired driver. This accident resulted in the tragic deaths of all three citizens.

In this tragedy's aftermath, Doug Goudsward, brother to Diane, has dedicated himself to preventing the medically impaired driver from obtaining a valid driver's license in another State, thereby further endangering the public. To this day, his brave and persistent efforts to protect the public have unfortunately not been fruitful.

Mr. Speaker, this situation is quite tragic and it is clear that Congress should work with the National Highway Traffic Safety Agency (NHTSA) to study the complex and controversial issue of medically impaired drivers. Congress and the NHTSA should develop guidelines, which are respectful to individual drivers, while setting appropriate standards for driving privileges that ensure the safety of communities and the general public.

RECOGNITION OF SGT. KENNETH "LEVI" RIDGLEY

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Army Sgt. Kenneth L. Ridgley who was recently killed in action fighting for freedom in Mosul, Iraq.

Ridgley was a 30-year-old who grew up in Pearl, Mississippi. He graduated from East Richland High School in Olney, Illinois. He then went on to attend Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He served as an Army sergeant assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division based at Fort Lewis, Washington. He was recently killed in action as a result of a combat related injury.

Sergeant Ridgley is survived by his wife, Charity Ridgley, of Steilacoom, Washington; a son, Dillon Ridgley; his father and mother, Clarence and Betty Richards, of Olney; a brother and his wife, Stan and Pam Richards, of Alhambra; and three sisters, Sonja Terry and her husband, Randy, of Willingford, Connecticut, Sher Richards and her husband, Steve Millett, of Columbus, Ohio, and Peggy Flauta and her husband, Rey, of Truckee, California. I am proud of the service this young man gave to our country and the service his fellow troops perform everyday. Not enough can be said about Sergeant Ridgley. It is troops like him that are risking their lives day in and day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy.



HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF DOUG SELLERS OF THE SAN  
ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Doug Sellers of the San Antonio Independent School District for his active work in our community.

Doug Sellers was born in the great State of Texas in 1952. He attended high school in San Antonio, where he currently serves as District 4 Trustee for the San Antonio Independent School District.

Doug Sellers is the type of educator who listens to our kids. Having started out as a Band Booster, he has been involved in the school district for over 15 years and he understands the unique needs of our children in the San Antonio community.

Doug Sellers believes that positive change in the educational community is the best way to help our city rise to the challenges of the next century. He has striven to make the San Antonio Independent School District a place where he is proud to send his own grandchildren.

Mr. Sellers is dedicated and passionate about improving our schools and he works hard for our community. Under Doug Sellers guidance, our educational and arts communities have a bright future.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have been given this opportunity to recognize Doug Sellers of the San Antonio Independent School District for his dedication to the educational and arts communities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL  
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ACT

**HON. WAYNE T. GILCREST**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. GILCREST. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, Representative VERNON EHLERS, in introducing a pair of bills that comprehensively address the growing problem of aquatic invasive species in the United States and its territories. These foreign invaders, from Sea Lamprey in the Great Lakes to Asian Carp in the Mississippi to Moon Jellies in the Gulf to Rappa Whelk in the Chesapeake Bay to Zebra Mussels across the U.S. and hundreds of other plants, fish, and invertebrates, cause significant economic and ecological damage throughout North America. In recent estimates, invasive species are demonstrated to cost the U.S. at least \$138 billion per year. Forty-two percent of the species on the federal threatened and endangered species lists are negatively impacted by invasive species. Once established, invasive species displace native species, impede municipal and industrial water systems, degrade ecosystems, reduce recreational and commercial fishing opportunities, and can cause public health problems.

Aquatic invasive species are a particular problem because they readily spread through interconnected waterways and are difficult to

treat safely. Hundreds of exotic species arrive in U.S. waters every day through a variety of pathways such as ballast water, hull fouling, aquaculture and the seafood trade. Without effective federal policies to prevent and control these introductions, we willingly surrender our valuable resource assets to these invasive species.

The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2005 (NAISA) will address these problems by: (1) Establishing a national mandatory ballast water management program, (2) Requiring ships to have an Invasive Species Management Plan that outlines ways to minimize transfers on a "whole ship" basis, (3) Creating a ballast water treatment technology certification program, and (4) Including incentives for ship owners to install experimental ballast treatment technology.

NAISA would also prevent invasive species introductions from other pathways by: (1) Identifying and managing pathways that pose the highest risk of introducing invasive species, (2) Creating a screening process for planned importations of live aquatic organisms, (3) Supporting development and implementation of State Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plans, including early detection, screening and rapid response activities at state and regional levels, (4) Conducting ecological surveys for early detection of invasive species and analysis of invasion rates and patterns, (5) Making available federal funding and resources for rapid response to introductions of invasive species, (6) Preventing inter-basin transfer of organisms by increasing funding and resources for dispersal barrier projects and research, (7) Establishing environmental soundness criteria to ensure all prevention and control measures enacted do not further harm the environment, (8) Creating education and outreach programs to inform the public on preventing transfers of invasive species by proper cleaning of recreational boats, and proper disposal of nonnative organisms for home aquaria, (9) Conducting research on high-risk invasion pathways and alternative prevention and control technologies, and (10) Making available \$170 million in federal funds for aquatic invasive species prevention, control, and research.

Congress has addressed this issue in two past legislative initiatives: the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (NANPCA) and its reauthorization as the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (NISA). Spurred by the growing concern over the zebra mussel invasion in the Great Lakes, NANPCA created a multi-agency task force, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, to address the issue of aquatic invaders and empowered the Coast Guard to develop guidelines for ballast water management for the Great Lakes. In 1996, Congress expanded the ballast water guidelines to a national voluntary program to be made mandatory if compliance is not sufficient.

While these laws made some progress, they have not yet solved the problem of aquatic invasive species introductions. For example, the national ballast water guidelines have seen low compliance. In addition, the only prevention option currently available to ships, ballast water exchange, has varying effectiveness that is difficult to measure, causes vessel safety concerns, and is not appropriate for coastal voyages. Development of new methods of combating transfers of organisms from

ballast water has been slow due to the lack of a ballast water standard and low funding for development of new technology.

We need improvements in current law. Our bills have been carefully researched and subjected to broad stakeholder review, and we believe the public and industry stakeholders will support both. We are drastically underinvesting in research and efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate aquatic invasive species. We don't get a second chance to prevent an invasive organism from taking hold in our waters. Our bills would make the U.S. proactive in saving its citizens billions of public dollars by allowing us to stop future invasions while effectively controlling and eradicating current invaders.

I urge my colleagues to support the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act and comprehensive prevention, control, and eradication of invasive species in the U.S.

RECOGNIZING SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S  
1996 S.W.A.T. TEAM

**HON. RICHARD W. POMBO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department's 1996 S.W.A.T. Team. That year was both successful in combating crime and yet terribly tragic as they faced the loss of a fellow S.W.A.T. Team member. The S.W.A.T. Team completed over 550 search warrants, experienced three shootings, and experienced the devastating loss of Deputy Dighton Little, who was killed in action while serving the people of San Joaquin County. His heroism will be remembered by my constituents, and I rise this day to honor his memory.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating each member of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department's S.W.A.T. Team of 1996 for their exemplary devotion, service, and selflessness in their important role as protectors of the community. The S.W.A.T. Team of 1996 included: Sergeant Walt Shankel, Sergeant Robert Humphreys, Deputy Richard Cordova, Deputy Jody Leberman, Deputy Richard Dunsing, Deputy Adail Thrower, Deputy Mark Dreher, Deputy Steve Rivera, Deputy Gilbert Mendez, Deputy Don Tisher, Deputy Steve Fontes, Deputy Gary Sheridan, Deputy Armondo Mayoya, Deputy Jesse Dubois, Deputy Dave Claypool, Deputy Ken Bassett, Deputy Ken Rohde, Deputy Albert Garcia, and Deputy Dighton Little (killed in action). I am in deep admiration of these fine members of my congressional district, and am pleased to honor them today in the chamber of the House of Representatives.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT FIRST  
CLASS DANA BOWMAN (RET.)

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of SFC Dana Bowman, a courageous and dedicated former soldier in the United States Army.

Sergeant First Class Bowman, a former member of the Army Special Forces and the "Golden Knights"—the Army's elite parachute team—has inspired the world in his recovery and unwavering will to succeed, despite all odds, following his tragic training accident in 1994. At Yuma, Arizona, Sergeant First Class Bowman and his fellow paratrooper, Sergeant First Class Jose Agillon, struck each other midair, severing both of his legs.

Not only did Sergeant First Class Bowman recover and re-enlist in the Army after a mere nine months, thereby becoming the first double amputee to re-enlist, but he became the United States Parachute Team's recruiting commander and lead speaker, telling others of the great sense of fulfillment and accomplishment such a duty can bring. From his military retirement in 1996 to the present, Sergeant First Class Bowman has encouraged the physically impaired and disabled community to never underestimate their potential to achieve their dreams, succeed in work and thrive in life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of SFC Dana Bowman. His positive outlook on life, personal strength, and will to uplift others touches all who come in contact with him.

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HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF PASTOR ANDREW WILSON

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**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Pastor Andrew Wilson of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church.

A native Texan, Andrew Wilson grew up in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated from Guadalupe Theological Seminary in 1984 and later was named recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Theology from the Guadalupe District Association College.

Reverend Andrew Wilson has served as Pastor of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church for over twelve years. Under his active and passionate guidance, the Shiloh "Missionary Baptist Church has taken on numerous important community projects.

He serves as an active member of the Baptist Ministers Union, the Community Churches for Social Action, and as Spiritual Advisor to the San Antonio Chapter of the Texas Gospel Announcers Guild/Gospel Music Workshop of America. He also participates in the Nolan Street Bridge Program, which helps to feed the homeless in our community.

Pastor Wilson is the husband of Yvette Wilson, and father of Andrenette and the Reverend Leonard Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Andrew Wilson is a source of tremendous strength for his community, and his commitment to serving his fellow man serves as a powerful example. I am proud to have the chance to honor him here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MODESTO  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Modesto Police Department for being awarded full accreditation by the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CALEA). This accreditation is a significant accomplishment for the Department as only twenty four percent of all full-time police officers in the United States are members of agencies officially accredited by CALEA.

The goals of the CALEA are to strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities, formalize essential management procedures, establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices, improve service delivery, solidify inter-agency cooperation and boost citizen and staff confidence in the agency. The Modesto Police Department was recognized with full accreditation for achieving and sustaining these goals.

Under the leadership of Police Chief Roy Wasden, the Modesto Police Department has worked diligently for many years to ensure that high quality professional police services are provided to the community of Modesto. The Department was finally recognized for their longstanding commitment to excellence in law enforcement after a thorough agency-wide evaluation and exacting outside review. The Modesto Police Department became the 13th law enforcement agency in California to achieve accreditation. It is now the largest police department in California to be accredited.

I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Modesto Police Department for their hard work and commitment to protecting and serving our community. Standing with tradition, the Department can always be counted upon and turned to during times of need. Such outstanding departments are the cornerstones of each member of the Department for their hard work and tireless dedication. They are truly heroes of our community. I am honored to represent such a distinguished police department in the 18th Congressional District of California.

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REMEMBERING THE SREBRENICA  
MASSACRE

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**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues House Resolution 199, regarding the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica in eastern Bosnian-Herzegovina. In July, ten years will have passed since thousands of Bosniaks perished in what was the worst atrocity committed during the three-and-a-half years of conflict in Bosnia. This was an absolute fiasco by the international community, eroding its credibility and principles. Those of us who worked together at the time in urging a more decisive international response can remember the horror associated with that conflict.

Many may ask: why do this? Why focus on what happened ten years ago in a region that

we are encouraging to look forward to a future that includes further European integration? I believe it is impossible to look forward without acknowledging the past and what really happened at Srebrenica. We have many lessons to learn from the past.

First, the very fact that many of those responsible for the Srebrenica massacre—especially Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic and others—not only have evaded justice in The Hague but may be receiving protection and are held almost as folk heroes by some indicates that the past has not been fully understood. Hundreds of people currently holding positions of responsibility are only now being investigated for possible connections to the massacre. Clearly the myths and propaganda originally used to justify a slaughter still hold sway in the minds of too many people.

Second, the international community must learn not to repeat the mistakes it made with horrible consequences in 1995. Some lessons have been learned. For the first time since World War II, for example, an international tribunal was created to prosecute those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. That body has borne some results, though its task is not complete.

Intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina was not some reckless act, as some suggest, but a needed response made increasingly difficult by unnecessary delay. Mutual congratulations will undoubtedly come later this year when commemorating the ten year anniversary of the Dayton Agreement. We would do well, however, to recall that it was the simple shame of allowing thousands to be massacred within one of the international community's officially designated "safe areas" that finally motivated serious consideration of action against the brazen thugs responsible for these crimes. Unfortunately, it took additional atrocities before effective action was taken.

It is also helpful to listen to some of the words spoken in the aftermath of the Srebrenica massacre. For example, 27 non-governmental organizations—including religious and humanitarian organizations not usually inclined to support the use of force, as well as Muslim and Jewish organizations not known for taking common stands—issued a powerful statement:

Bosnia is not a faraway land of no concern to our "national interest." At stake is the global commitment to fundamental human values—the right not to be killed because of one's religious or ethnic heritage, and the right of civilians not to be targeted by combatants.

At about the same time, the U.N.'s rapporteur for human rights in the former Yugoslavia, former Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, explained why he could no longer "continue to participate in the pretense of the protection of human rights" and chose to resign in response to the events at Srebrenica. Known as a thoughtful, principled man, he said:

One cannot speak about the protection of human rights with credibility when one is confronted with the lack of consistency and courage displayed by the international community and its leaders. . . . Crimes have been committed with swiftness and brutality and by contrast the response of the international community has been slow and ineffectual.

If, when listening to these words from ten years ago, we think of subsequent events including Darfur today, we realize how little we have indeed learned.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina we also produced examples of the best in humanity, people in the international community—aid workers, soldiers, diplomats, journalists, monitors and advocates—who risked and sometimes gave their lives to prevent further loss of life. I particularly mention in this connection the American negotiators Robert Frasure, Joseph Kruzel, and Nelson Drew who died while traveling Bosnia's dangerous, war-torn roads. They deserve our gratitude for the efforts to restore peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we cannot forget the memory of the victims of Srebrenica and those who survived, but were traumatized by the debacle at Srebrenica. Many continue to wonder about the ultimate fate of the missing, even as new mass graves have been unearthed in northeastern Bosnia-Herzegovina. For these people, ten years is not long ago, and recognizing the pain and anguish they experienced may help bring closure for them. Some of these victims, I should add, have come to our country as refugees and are now Americans. They will no doubt be remembering the tragic events at Srebrenica ten years ago.

I will not detail here the almost unspeakable horrors that were part of the massacre at Srebrenica in July 1995. Some of the events are mentioned in House Resolution 199. Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will give this measure their serious consideration and active support.

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HONORING THE 2005 DR. NAN S. HUTCHINSON BROWARD SENIOR HALL OF FAME ELECTEES

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the eleven electees to the Dr. Nan S. Hutchinson Broward Senior Hall of Fame for 2005. To coincide with the month of May as Older Americans' Month, the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County annually coordinates the Hall of Fame Elections to honor seniors who are dedicated to serving their community.

Mr. Vincent Ciardullo has donated over 7500 hours of community service to the Coral Springs Medical Center Auxiliary, where he holds the elected position of Parliamentarian and Chair of "Ways and Means." Mr. Ciardullo has also raised funds in excess of \$250,000 for the facility. In 1997, Mr. Ciardullo initiated the annual Teddy Bear Parade which has collected thousands of teddy bears that local police and EMS departments distribute to children in distress situations.

Mr. Nat Goren has dedicated himself to a number of South Florida medical centers. He has served on the Board of Directors for the American Cancer Society, is the Past President of the Alzheimer's Association of South Florida, and the Past Chairman of Broward Meals on Wheels. A World War II Naval Veteran, Mr. Goren is a devoted and active member of his community.

Ms. Jean Johnson has been involved with numerous charitable organizations including Sunshine Cathedral Board of Directors, the Jail Ministry, the Women's Guild, SAGE, Hollywood Humane Resource Advisory Board, Seniors and Law Enforcement Together, and the American Cancer Society. Ms. Johnson has also been an active volunteer at the Noble A. McArtor Adult Day Care Center, serving on the Sponsorship and Publicity/Advertising Subcommittees of the Advisory Council.

Ms. Betty Kaufman has coordinated fund-raising, education and outreach efforts for over 15 years. Ms. Kaufman has been recognized as Volunteer of the Year of the Advisory Council of the Area Agency of Aging. Ms. Kaufman has also been actively involved with the Broward Grandparents program; having worked on the Senior Spring Festival, Foster Grandparents Breakfast, and "Gift of Gold" Distribution. Additionally, her service received statewide attention in 1993, when the late Governor Lawton Chiles proclaimed two days in her honor for her leadership role in the marketing industry.

Mrs. Shirley Lewenberg has proven herself as an effective fund-raiser for numerous organizations. For the past several years, Mrs. Lewenberg has been involved with the American Cancer Society's Jail and Bail event, exceeding the nonprofit's fund-raising goals many times. Additionally, she has held the Area Agency on Aging's Fund-raising Co-Chair position, and has been honored as Volunteer of the Year.

Ms. Mary Macomber is involved with a variety of charitable causes which improve the quality of life of all for all Broward County residents. Ms. Macomber is actively involved with the Coordinating Council of Broward (CCB); serving as Chair of the Steering Committee, Multicultural Board, and Million Meals Committee. Ms. Macomber also gives her time to the City of Coral Springs Multicultural Advisory Board, South Florida Human Rights Council, and she is the Vice Chair of the Noble A. McArtor Adult Day Care Advisory Council.

Mr. Matt Meadows is a Past President of the Area Agency on Aging's Board of Directors and has served as member of the Alzheimer Association's Board of Directors since 1996. Mr. Meadows has served on the City of Lauderhill's City Commission for 6 years and has served as a Board Member for both the Broward and the Florida League of Cities Boards. Mr. Meadows has also worked extensively to benefit South Florida's minority populations through his work with the Florida Commission on Minority Health, the Florida Commission on Minority Economic and Business Development and the Florida Commission of African American Affairs.

Ms. Betty Priscak has been involved with numerous charitable organizations including Sunshine Cathedral Board of Directors, the Jail Ministry, the Women's Guild, SAGE, Hollywood Humane Resource Advisory Board, Seniors and Law Enforcement Together, and the American Cancer Society. Ms. Priscak has also been an active volunteer at the Noble A. McArtor Adult Day Care Center, serving on the Sponsorship and Publicity/Advertising Subcommittees of the Advisory Council.

Ms. Esther Schneiderman has worked with the Hollywood Hills Nursing Home for over 12 years. She has been recognized by the Home

as "Volunteer of the Year," and the Miami Herald has awarded her Honorable Mention for its Good Neighbor Award. Ms. Schneiderman has been involved with Hospice and Deborah Heart and Lung Center. She has also been recognized for her 15 years of service to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

Ms. Shelly Spivak has devoted herself to a variety of charitable causes, while also maintaining a full-time career. Ms. Spivak has volunteered her time for the Governance Council of the United Jewish Community, the West Broward Unit Issues Committee of the American Cancer Society, the Allocation Committee of United Way of Broward, the Unit Board of the Boys and Girls Club of Hollywood, and the Cities in Schools of Broward County School Board.

Mrs. Mary Todd has been an active member of the Broward County Medical Association Auxiliary for over one quarter of a century, while serving as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Mrs. Todd is also a dedicated Board Member for the Areawide Council on Aging.

Mr. Speaker, for their dedicated service to the community, I wish to once again recognize these eleven outstanding seniors, who have been elected to the Dr. Nan S. Hutchinson Broward Senior Hall of Fame for 2005.

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HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MAYOR BILL CARROLL OF PLEASANTON, TEXAS

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Bill Carroll of Pleasanton, Texas for his distinguished record of dedication to his fellow citizens.

Bill Carroll was born and raised in Dilley, Texas. He served his country in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969, where he was a member of the 101st Airborne. He received his Bachelor's degree in Spanish from Texas State University, and first came to Pleasanton in 1979.

Mr. Carroll has been married to his wife, Beth, for 38 years, and has two sons. He has been highly active in community volunteer activities; he has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for over 30 years, and currently holds the rank of fifth degree knight and Ceremonial Delegate in that organization.

In 1998, Mr. Carroll was appointed to represent District 6 in the City Council. He was elected to the same office in 1999, and then rose to the rank of Mayor in May 2000. He has been reelected as Mayor in every subsequent year, and continues to hold the post today.

Mayor Carroll has distinguished himself as a soldier, a volunteer, a public servant, a husband, and a father. He is the kind of citizen who holds our communities together, through his hard work, energy, and willingness to serve. He is a credit and a blessing to Pleasanton, and I am proud to have the chance to thank him here today.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House on Tuesday, April 12, attending a funeral for a soldier in my district who died heroically last week in the effort to liberate Iraq. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

H.R. 135: To establish the Twenty-First Century Water Commission to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs, "yea."

H.R. 541: To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land to Lander County, NV, and the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to Eureka County, NV, for continued use as cemeteries, "yea."

## INTRODUCTION OF THE ABANDONED MINE LANDS RECLAMATION REFORM ACT OF 2005

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join our colleague Representative BARBARA CUBIN in introducing the "Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Reform Act of 2005" in recognition of the pressing need to make continued progress in restoring the environment in coalfield communities throughout the Nation.

Originally authorized as part of the landmark Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, to date over \$5 billion has been appropriated under the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program in an effort to restore lands and waters adversely affected by past coal mining practices. These restoration projects normally involve threats to the public health and safety from dangerous highwalls, subsidence, refuse piles and open mine portals. They also include the construction of new water supply systems to coalfield communities where water supplies have been contaminated by past coal mining practices. Over the years, funds have also been made available under this program for emergency coal reclamation projects, the Rural Abandoned Mine Program, the Small Operators Assistance Program, certain noncoal mining reclamation projects and the administration of the program.

The primary delivery mechanism for these funds is through annual grants made through the annual appropriations process to 26 eligible States and Indian tribes. This effort is augmented by funds expended by the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in States and tribes without approved reclamation programs. By most accounts, this effort has been a success achieving far more in real on-the-ground environmental restoration than programs such as the Superfund.

Yet, the mission of this program has not yet fully been accomplished which is the reason for the legislation I am introducing today. As it stands, there currently exists about \$3 billion worth of high priority human health and safety

threatening abandoned coal mine reclamation costs in this country. There are other costs as well, associated with lower priority abandoned coal mine sites. The fundamental purpose of the "Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Act of 2005" is to raise sufficient revenues which, when coupled with the unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and the reforms proposed by the legislation, to finance the reclamation of the remaining \$3 billion inventory of high priority coal reclamation sites and draw this effort to a successful conclusion.

In this regard, it is essential to note that this program is not financed by the general taxpayer but rather through a fee assessed on every ton of coal mined. The unreclaimed coal sites eligible for expenditures under the program were primarily abandoned prior to the enactment of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 which placed stringent mining and reclamation standards in place. The authority to collect these fees was originally for a 15-year period. However, on two prior occasions through legislation I sponsored the Congress extended those fees collections in recognition of the continued need to address health, safety and environmental threats in the Nation's coalfield communities. Those fee collections are currently set to expire at the end of June this year.

A central feature of this legislation then is to extend that fee collection authority through the year to 2020. This is the period the OSM estimates will be necessary to generate the additional revenue to complete the high priority coal site inventory. However, that alone will not allow us to achieve that goal which is the reason for the reforms proposed by this bill.

Simply put, in my view over the years there has been a hemorrhaging of some of the funding made available under this program to lower priority projects. One of the reasons this reduction in focus on health and safety threatening projects has occurred is due to a late 1994 OSM policy shift that corrupted what is known as the general welfare standard in the coal reclamation priority rankings. This new policy has had the affect of allowing States to bootstrap what would normally have been lower priority 3 projects into the higher priority 1 and 2 rankings. To be clear, not all States or even a majority of States have taken advantage of this new policy and I commend them for that. Yet it is a fact that as a result of this new policy the bona fide \$3 billion inventory of unfunded priority 1 and 2 projects has swollen to over \$6 billion. I do not recognize this \$6 billion figure and neither does this legislation.

The reforms proposed by this bill include eliminating the general welfare standard and restricting the use of State/tribal share grants and supplemental federal share grants to bona fide coal priority 1 and 2 projects involving threats to human health and safety. Once those projects are completed and only when those projects are completed, with two minor exceptions, can a State or tribe undertake the lower priority coal projects under the certification program with their State/tribal share grants. The exceptions to this rule involve situations where a priority 3 site is undertaken in conjunction with a priority 1 or 2 site, or where a priority 3 site is addressed in association with a coal remining operation. In effect, this legislation seeks to target the lion's share of available funding to coal priority 1 and 2s

keeping faith with the original mission of the program. Among other reforms envisioned are federal approval of any additions made to the official Abandoned Mine Reclamation Inventory and a review of those additions made since the OSM policy shift on the general welfare standard.

The purposes of these reforms are intended, as previously noted, to complete those projects which are necessary to complete for the sake of protecting the health and safety of coalfield residents. At the same time, they are also intended to give the coal industry which finances this program reasonable assurances that the fees it pays will not be squandered but put to good use, and to give the industry a time frame which it can count on when the assessment of those fees will no longer be necessary.

I would like to make note of two additional changes to current law proposed by this bill. As already noted, in the past appropriations were made available from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to the Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP), an Agriculture Department program. No such appropriations have been forthcoming for six fiscal years now. I find this disappointing. While the Interior Department and the States from the very beginning were against RAMP funding, contending it was duplicative of their efforts, this in my view and in that of many others was not the case. RAMP served a distinctly different purpose involving a closer working relationship with landowners and sought to address reclamation projects on a more holistic basis. Another problem that also dogged RAMP was the fact that while it is an Agriculture Department program, its appropriations were being made out of an Interior Department trust fund by the Interior Appropriations bill. Obviously, Interior officials had little interest in this arrangement and so beginning in 1995 we have not been able to obtain funding for RAMP. In my view, this situation will not change if the status quo is maintained. For that reason, the legislation I am introducing today would authorize RAMP for general fund appropriations rather than out of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund so that funding can be pursued through the Agriculture Department's Natural Resources Conservation Service's budget.

Finally, this legislation also seeks to deal in a comprehensive fashion with the problems which have been plaguing the coal miner health care program.

In that regard, the bill would lift the restriction that interest accrued in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund can only be transferred to what is known as the Combined Benefits Fund for unassigned beneficiaries. Under this bill, all accrued interest would be available to keep faith with the promise made by the federal government many years ago to guarantee health care benefit for certain retired coal miners. Further, this legislation would also make accrued interest available for what are known as the 1992 and 1993 Plans. Due to a variety of factors, such as the rash of steel company bankruptcies and the Horizon decision of last year, these plans are coming under financial hardship and we must also keep faith with those retired coal miners and their dependents covered by them.

Mr. Speaker, it is time, far past the time, for this Congress to move forward with this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARIAN J.  
HOCKENHULL

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I come before this body today to pay tribute to an outstanding woman, Dr. Marian J. Hockenhull. Dr. Hockenhull has been appointed the National Youth Director of the Young People's Department of the Women's Auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. The First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church will hold a reception to celebrate this prestigious appointment on Saturday, April 16 in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

The list of Dr. Hockenhull's accomplishments is a testament to the energy and hard work she has expended over the years. She has received honor after honor from her sororities, her community and her church. She has received numerous awards at the local, district, state and national level. The leadership of the National Baptist Convention and Baptist World Alliance chose her to represent their organizations on the international level where she was able to bring her inspiration to persons in many nations.

Dr. Hockenhull has spent her life ministering to children. She is committed to improving the lives of the next generation both in the United States and around the world. As a retired educator of the Beecher School District, and in her work at the University of Michigan-Flint, she is a firsthand witness to the power of education to motivate and promote a better life. As an activist for youth, Marian Hockenhull has sought better living conditions, educational opportunities and the improved well being of the young.

This longstanding commitment to children is only underscored by her current appointment as the National Youth Director. The position will allow Dr. Hockenhull to continue her advocacy for children. I ask the Congress of the United States to join with me in congratulating Marian Hockenhull as she assumes her new post with the Women's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention.

#### SECURITY COUNCIL EXPANSION

**HON. JAMES A. LEACH**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, one of the most talked-about issues in foreign policy today relates to the nature and possibility of United Nations reform, including the question of whether to expand the number of permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Not unexpectedly, the People's Republic of China has expressed great angst about several of the proposed methodologies for expanding the number of permanent members—possibly because of historical friction between China and Japan and, to a lesser extent, India.

My sense is that the issue of the make-up of the Security Council should be the subject of serious review. As a former member of the United States Delegation to the U.N. as well

as a former co-Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Improving the Effectiveness of the U.N., I am convinced that constructive reform of the Security Council is in order.

It is in the world's interest and the U.S. national interest to expand the Security Council. The claim of India, Japan and Germany for a permanent seat is compelling. Likewise, there is a credible case that the Security Council could be modestly expanded on a shared co-country basis as well. For example, Brazil and Mexico might be awarded a seat in which they would alternate terms. In a similar way, Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa might be given the right to alternate terms with each other, as might the Muslim-majority countries of Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Such an approach would expand the Security Council by six seats, involving the granting of new rights to eleven countries.

The case for granting veto power to new full-time members may be credible, but for various reasons one or another of the current five permanent members can be expected to object to the dilution of their own veto authority. Hence, realistically membership but not veto expansion is likely to be the agenda issue subject to serious review at this time.

Expansion of the number of permanent seats under this approach would involve a substantial change in the Security Council, but this change would be more likely to be stabilizing than destabilizing because it would better reflect power balances in the world today and lead to more equitable financial burden-sharing of U.N. actions. It would cause the Council to reflect greater religious and racial diversity and also be composed of a higher percentage of the world's population. Such a new Security Council arrangement would underscore the role of Asia in world affairs as well as reflect a more credible African and Latin American presence.

In any regard, I would hope that the Executive Branch as well as other member countries of the U.N. might give this and other comparable approaches serious consideration.

HONORING SISTER JANET EISNER  
IN RECOGNITION OF HER 25  
YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF EM-  
MANUEL COLLEGE

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable woman, constituent, and friend, Sister Janet Eisner, president of Emmanuel College. Later this month, on April 28, Sister Janet will celebrate 25 years as the college's president.

Founded in 1919 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, a French order established to educate the daughters of the poor, Emmanuel College, under the leadership of Sister Janet, remains true to that mission. Under her leadership, thousands of young women from disadvantaged backgrounds have studied and received degrees from the college. Though today's students are from a more diverse socioeconomic pool, Emmanuel continues to provide need-based financial aid to more than 70 percent of its students.

Herself a graduate, Sister Janet has embraced many of the schools traditions, while at

the same time, advocated for programs and policies that have addressed the changing needs of the college and its students. In 1979, she became president of a small private liberal arts women's college. Since then, Sister Janet has transformed Emmanuel into a coeducational institution with a greater emphasis on math and science. As a result of her efforts to have Emmanuel embrace the math and science disciplines, the Merck Pharmaceutical Corporation has recently built a major research facility on campus, greatly expanding laboratory access for the college's faculty and students.

Sister Janet believes, as I do, that the future of the New England region depends upon scientific intellectual capital and biomedical innovation and she is determined to ensure that Emmanuel and its students have a place in that future. With that in mind, Sister Janet serves on the Executive Committee of MASCO, the Medical, Academic, and Scientific Community Organization of the Longwood Medical and Academic Area, and has organized her academic neighbors into a formidable consortium, "the Colleges of the Fenway". This consortium includes Simmons College, Wheelock College, Wentworth Institute, Massachusetts College of Art, and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences.

In addition to her efforts to maintain a high level of academic excellence at Emmanuel, Sister Janet has preserved and deepened the college's commitment to community service. Freshman Orientation includes an introduction to volunteer opportunities in Boston food pantries, after-school programs, environmental projects, homeless shelters, and hospices. As a result, Emmanuel's students devote countless hours to community service activities such as providing educational tutoring and mentoring to Boston's at-risk children. Last fall, Sister Janet dedicated the Jean Yawkey Center for Community Leadership to focus and support community engagement. The Yawkey Center joins the Carolyn A. Lynch Institute, formed to support urban teachers, in linking Emmanuel students with public and private inner city schools.

Few people have achieved what Sister Janet has achieved, and yet she firmly believes that there is far more to accomplish at the college. Lilies adorn the seal of Emmanuel College, but I think Sister Janet's contributions to Emmanuel are more emblematic of the flower of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur: the sunflower. The sunflower is strong, brilliant, and constantly seeking light. I could not think of a more fitting description of Sister Janet's tenure at Emmanuel College. I congratulate Sister Janet for a remarkable 25 years as president of Emmanuel College and wish her continued success in the years to come.

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
WEEK AND INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, Stop Violence Against Women week affords

us the opportunity to recognize the tremendous strides we have made in the decade since the Violence Against Women Act was passed. We have begun to educate our communities. We are slowly changing attitudes about domestic violence from seeing it as a family problem, a private issue that the government should not interfere with to a public interest issue that affects victims, their families and the nation as a whole. We have put in place nationwide, state and local programs that use a multifaceted approach to eradicating this plague on our society.

Violence against women has decreased in the last ten years in the United States, but it is still at epidemic proportions throughout the developing world. It is projected that in 2005 over 1 million women will be the victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence knows no racial, ethnic or socio-economic boundaries. Its social and economic consequences are incalculable.

Women who are the victims of domestic violence, and nearly one in three women experiences at least one physical assault by an intimate partner in her adult lifetime, are more likely to miss work and under perform, affecting their ability to support themselves and their children. Children exposed to domestic violence are more likely to be the victims themselves and are more likely to perpetuate this behavior when they are grown. The detrimental affects are far-reaching and severe.

Going forward we need to build on the foundation put in place over the past decade. We need to promote awareness. We need to provide viable alternatives. We need to make sure the world knows that in the United States we do not tolerate violence against women.

As we celebrate International Women's Day this week, we focus our attention on the challenges women face abroad. As cultural attitudes about women change across the world, foreign governments must also set the stage and take affirmative steps to protect women from violence. The increasing number of murders and rapes is an especially critical problem in the developing world. We must let our voices be heard: America and the global community will no longer tolerate these crimes against women. We urge foreign governments to hear our call.

We also need to combat the international trafficking of women and children. Between six hundred and eight hundred thousand people are trafficked across international borders. Eighty percent of these victims are women and up to fifty percent are minors. These victims are bought and sold daily and forced to perform unspeakable acts for others' financial gain. They are exposed to torture, sexual violence, fatal sexually transmitted diseases. This is modern-day slavery, this is the epitome of violence against women and it has to stop.

I want to thank Lifetime Television and others involved with Stop Violence Against Women Week. The more we talk about these problems, the closer we get to viable solutions.

## A BILL TO ALLOW TAX-FREE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

### HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation entitled the "Public Good IRA Rollover Act." I am introducing this bill to encourage increased charitable giving by correcting certain provisions in the tax code related to Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Americans should have the opportunity to make tax-free charitable contributions directly from their IRA accounts.

This legislation is designed to allow individuals age 59½ or older to contribute amounts currently held in IRA accounts directly to qualified charities without having to first recognize the income for tax purposes and then take a charitable deduction. This legislation will give individuals more freedom to allocate their resources as they see fit while providing badly needed funding for charities, churches, museums, universities, and many other nonprofit organizations.

The IRA was intended to encourage individuals to save for retirement, but due to a strong economy and an increase in asset values, many individuals have more funds in these accounts than they anticipated or now need to retire comfortably. Thus, it is very common for retirees to donate some of their wealth to charities and, in some cases, that wealth is held in an IRA.

Individuals may withdraw funds from an IRA without incurring an early withdrawal penalty once they reach age 59½. Currently, however, these IRA withdrawals are generally taxed as income, even if the individual donates the money to charity. Many donors are reluctant to make charitable contributions from their IRA assets because of the additional tax costs they will incur. Congress has exempted withdrawals from IRA accounts under certain circumstances, such as to finance the purchase of a home or a college education. Congress should also make it possible for older Americans to support charities by allowing withdrawals from their IRA assets without suffering adverse tax consequences.

This legislation also addresses other obstacles to charitable giving created by the current tax code. A taxpayer could readily recognize the IRA withdrawal income for tax purposes and, after making a charitable gift, take a charitable tax deduction. Unfortunately, in many cases under current law such a simple arrangement results in a loss of some portion of the charitable deduction. For example, charitable contributions are subject to the itemized deduction "haircut" under which certain taxpayers lose a portion of their charitable deduction.

It is very difficult to estimate the amount of capital trapped by the current tax and rollover rules, and thus not available to our nation's charities. According to one report, there is over \$1 trillion held in IRA accounts. If only 1 percent of this would be donated to charity but for the tax problems associated with charitable rollovers, this represents a \$10 billion loss of resources to these organizations that do so much good.

I will give just one example from my state of California, where universities and colleges receive tremendous support from private individuals. These donations and financial gifts are critical to providing the funding needed to maintain quality higher education and keep it available and affordable. In the UC system, private contributions provide more than \$369 million for individual university departments, \$291 million for research, \$225 million for campus improvements, and \$84 million for scholarships and student support services. In addition, planned gifts such as charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, and pooled income funds are a tremendously valuable source of funding for the University of California System. This legislation encourages more charitable gifts such as this, which will greatly benefit universities and many other charities. This is sound and greatly needed legislation. Similar legislation has consistently received strong bi-partisan support in both chambers of Congress. This bill was part of the CARE Act that passed the House last year. In addition, President Bush has endorsed this proposal and it was included in the Administration's budget request for FY2005 and FY2006.

This legislation is crucial to many local and national charities, including American Red Cross and the YMCA. Associations that represent thousands of our nation's charities and nonprofit professionals, such as the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the National Committee on Planned Giving, INDEPENDENT SECTOR, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals, hear daily from their members whose donors want to make gifts from their IRA assets.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation to increase private giving to charitable organizations by removing the disincentive currently in the tax code. We must continue to support proposals such as this that strengthen and increase resources for the nonprofit sector, a sector that plays such an important role in lives of millions of Americans every day. I know this legislation is needed in California and in your local communities as well. I hope my colleagues will join me in passing this important legislation.

## TRIBUTE TO THE ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Order Sons of Italy in America in celebration of their 100th anniversary in June 2005. The OSIA is the largest and longest established organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States.

Established in 1905 as a mutual aid society for early Italian immigrants, the OSIA has grown to more than 100,000 members nationwide and 2,500 in Maryland. The OSIA is dedicated to preserving Italian-American traditions and culture among the estimated 26 million people of Italian descent living in the United States. I want to commend S. Joseph Avara of Baltimore, past president of the OSIA

who did so much to bring financial stability and order to the Maryland Lodge.

The OSIA also is a charitable organization, raising millions of dollars for Alzheimer's Disease and Cooley's Anemia, a severe blood disorder that affects those of Mediterranean descent. In addition, the OSIA has also raised a significant amount of money for the March of Dimes.

Italian-Americans have made enormous contributions to our nation—from serving in the armed forces to achievements in science and medicine to public service. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the OSIA for its work to ensure that all Americans appreciate the contributions made to our nation by the Italian-American community.

CONGRATULATING MRS. ASHLEY ROTHBARD BERK, RECIPIENT OF THE 2004 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I extend congratulations and thanks to Mrs. Ashley Rothbard Berk, a teacher at Travell Elementary School in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Mrs. Berk was selected from among 600 nominees to be a recipient of the prestigious 2004 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching was established in 1983 to recognize the outstanding science and mathematics teachers, kindergarten through 12th grade, in each state and the four U.S. jurisdictions. Today, the White House award is recognized as the Nation's highest commendation for elementary and secondary math and science teachers.

After an initial selection process at the state level, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators reviews the extensive application packets of the state finalists and recommends the teachers who will receive a Presidential award. Mrs. Berk is the sole awardee from New Jersey.

Mrs. Berk was recognized for teaching her students fractions, decimals and percentages using a technique to reach different types of learners: the visual, auditory, verbal and kinesthetic. She developed the method in an effort to make sure students in her fifth-grade class were operating at their optimum learning ability.

Mrs. Berk says she fell in love with teaching right away, and her devotion to ensuring her students are learning is evidenced in this award. The award also brings more than prestige to the winner; as an awardee, Mrs. Berk also receives a \$10,000 grant for her school.

I want to congratulate Mrs. Berk of Travell Elementary School for being selected for this prestigious honor. She is a credit to New Jersey and a credit to our many outstanding educators.

To paraphrase Oliver Wendell Holmes, the greatest teacher makes others believe in greatness, and they leave a lasting mark on the lives around them. Today, I am proud and

honored to join in the applause for one of the nation's great teachers—Mrs. Ashley Berk. We are grateful for your dedication to providing New Jersey children with an outstanding education.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN W. MACK, PRESIDENT OF THE LOS ANGELES URBAN LEAGUE

### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a national trailblazer and dynamic American public servant, Mr. John W. Mack, who will be retiring as the President of the Los Angeles Urban League.

John W. Mack has served as President of the Los Angeles Urban League since August of 1969. He began his career with the Urban League in Flint, Michigan in 1964 and was appointed Executive Director in 1965. Prior to heading the Los Angeles Urban League, he served on the Urban League's National staff for six months during the Urban League Presidency of Whitney Young in Washington, D.C. John was a leader in the 1960 student civil rights movement in Atlanta—Co-Founder and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on the Appeal for Human Rights. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Sociology from North Carolina A&T State University. He holds a Master's Degree from Atlanta University.

John Mack has been fighting on the frontlines for decades in the battle to secure equal opportunities for all Americans from all walks of life. Under John Mack's leadership, the Los Angeles Urban League has become one of the most successful non-profit community organizations in Los Angeles with an annual budget of \$20 million. The Los Angeles Urban League serves over 100,000 individuals each year and operates a number of innovative, result-orientated job training, job placement, education, academic tutorial, growth development and business development programs. Under his leadership, the Los Angeles Urban League has utilized state of the art computer technology to prepare citizens for careers in the 21st Century Global Economy. John Mack understood that in order for America to maintain its standing as the global economic leader, its workforce must be the best trained, best educated and best equipped in order to compete on the world stage.

John Mack has also been a visionary with respect to ensuring that civil and human rights are neither compromised nor violated in Los Angeles, California and across the Nation. He is a highly respected advocate for equal opportunities in education, law enforcement and economic empowerment for all Americans. He has been a drum major for justice and equality and a bridge builder across all racial, cultural, economic, gender and religious lines.

I am proud to call John W. Mack my friend. His demonstrated commitment to improving the quality of life and improving economic opportunities for the citizens of Los Angeles, California and the Nation has been exemplary and noteworthy. I have found his insights to be thoughtful and genuinely compassionate.

The Los Angeles Urban League, the National Urban League, California and the Nation have benefited tremendously from the vision, commitment and public service of John W. Mack.

TAX REFORM—CONSTANT CHANGE IN THE TAX CODE AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE "TEMPORARY FIX"

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 13, 2005*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I will give the Republicans credit, they have made a lot of noise over the past few years about lowering taxes, lifting the burden off of working and middle class families and improving America's tax structure for businesses and households. But this is blatantly untrue.

I salute Mr. HOYER for organizing this discussion tonight to let the American public know the truth about the Republicans and their tax schemes. For too long Democrats have allowed the Republican deception to continue . . . until now. Just as the previous speakers have stated, the American tax code and the tax policies have failed this country, they have failed working people, middle income families, the working poor. I also want to mention how these flawed Republican tax policies have also weakened the competitiveness of America's small businesses, entrepreneurs and corporations.

These are the people that create the jobs that keep America working. The business community, which represents the true job creators of America, has had to deal with ever constant changes to the tax code, and so-called temporary fixes at the last minute. These leave American businesses and employers not able to plan for the future as they have no idea what the tax code will look like.

Rather the Republican's business tax code plan is not about reform or simplification but rather can be summed up as the "Full Employment for Accounts Act." Republican leaders repeatedly have talked about the need to make the tax system simpler and fairer. In fact, Speaker HASTERT himself stated in December that America's tax system is quote "too complicated; it also hurts our Nation's competitiveness." He is right—but his Republican caucus has done nothing to address this issue. In fact, their actions show just the opposite.

The Federal income tax code has grown from 500 pages in 1913 to 45,662 in 2001 when Mr. Bush was elected to 25 volumes today. The 2001 tax law added 214 million hours alone to the paperwork burden for small business people. They should be creating and investing and producing not figuring out their more and more complicated tax forms.

Individuals, businesses, tax-exempt public and private entities spend nearly 6 billion hours complying with the tax code. And they call this simplification and reform. And this burden falls heaviest on our small business people and self-employed.

IRS estimates that the average taxpayer with a self-employed status has the greatest compliance burden in terms of preparation—59 hours. Small businesses overpaid their taxes by \$18 billion in 2000 and 2001 because



of return errors, a GAO report found in 2002. Tens of thousands of farmers overpaid taxes by an average of more than \$500 because they failed to take advantage of income averaging, according to a Treasury Department report in March 2004.

Despite repeated promises, no action was ever taken on fundamental reform of our tax system. Instead, the Republicans enacted legislation that dramatically increased the complexity of our income tax system. The Republican tax legislation used budget gimmicks, such as phase-ins, temporary provisions and overall sunsets, to hide the cost of their tax legislation.

Today, while the Republicans hail their so called “estate tax” victory—in fact, what they

have done is increase the estate tax for hundreds of thousands of small businesses by repealing the “step up in basis” and substituting in “carry over basis” rules that preserve the tax on increases in value of estates before death—hence making recipients now pay a capital gains tax on inherited materials, that people are now exempt from. So the death tax actually grows stronger under the sham Republican bill they passed today. And today not only will make their lives more difficult and their taxes more complicated, but it also makes their taxes increase. As a result, we have a tax system that is quite unstable, leaving taxpayers uncertain about the law in the future.

Business cannot plan for the future. Congress must end these gimmicks. It is time for Congress to make permanent the Research and Development Tax Credit. We must immediately provide a permanent tax credit for the health insurance expenses for the self-employed. We must end these tax loopholes, gimmicks and temporary tax solutions—as these are actually not helpful to businesses and entrepreneurs.

We need real tax reform and real tax simplification. Something that the Republicans haven’t been able to deliver 10 years. It’s time for a real change in our tax law, by providing a real change in American leadership.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## APRIL 14

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine implementation by the Department of Defense of the National Security Personnel System.

SR-325

## Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 378, to make it a criminal act to willfully use a weapon with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury to any person while on board a passenger vessel, S. 119, to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, S. 629, to amend chapter 97 of title 18, United States Code, relating to protecting against attacks on railroads and other mass transportation systems, S. 555, to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal, and the nominations of Thomas B. Griffith, of Utah, and Janice R. Brown, of California, each to be a United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Terrence W. Boyle, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Priscilla Richman Owen, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Robert J. Conrad, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, and James C. Dever III, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

SD-226

## Appropriations

Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-138

## Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the current economic outlook for April.

2212 RHOB

10 a.m.

## Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program.

SD-538

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 364, to establish a program within the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration to integrate Federal coastal and ocean mapping activities, S. 714, to amend section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 relating to the prohibition on junk fax transmissions, S. 432, to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, the proposed Surface Transportation Safety Improvement Act of 2005, and the nominations of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Promotion List, Coast Guard Promotion List, and Coast Guard Promotion List.

SR-253

## Finance

To hold hearings to examine how to solve the tax gap.

SD-G50

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine lifelong education opportunities.

SD-430

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine a review of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), focusing on the impact of the UMRA has had on Federal, state, and local governments and explore if changes are necessary to strengthen the law's procedures, definitions, and exclusions.

SD-342

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

345 CHOB

10:30 a.m.

## Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lieutenant General Michael V. Hayden, United States Air Force, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

SH-216

11 a.m.

## Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine problems experienced by unregistered religious communities operating within the Russian Federation.

2200 RHOB

2 p.m.

## Appropriations

Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Office of Marketing and Regulatory Programs, the Office of Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, and the Office of Food Safety and Inspection Service, all of the Department of Agriculture.

SD-192

## Appropriations

Energy and Water, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the National Nuclear Security Administration.

SD-124

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the ongoing need for comprehensive postal reform.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

## Armed Services

## Airland Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Air Force acquisition oversight in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006.

SR-232A

## Judiciary

Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee

Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings to examine deportation and related issues relating to strengthening interior enforcement.

SD-226

3 p.m.

## Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH-219

## APRIL 19

10 a.m.

## Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine offshore hydrocarbon production and the future of alternate energy resources on the outer Continental Shelf, focusing on recent technological advancements made in the offshore exploration and production of traditional forms of energy, and the future of deep shelf and deepwater production; enhancements in worker safety, and steps taken by the offshore oil and gas industry to meet environmental challenges.

SD-366

## Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the Near East and South Asian experience relating to combating terrorism through education.

SD-419

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine S. 334, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs.

SD-430

10:15 a.m.

## Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Jonathan Brian Perlin, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health; to be followed by a hearing on "Back from the Battlefield, Part II: Seamless Transition to Civilian Life".

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

## Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine SBC/ATT and Verizon/MCI mergers, focusing on remaking the telecommunication industry.

SD-226

Energy and Natural Resources  
Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 166, to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes River Conservancy, S. 251, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a water resource feasibility study for the Little Butte/Bear Creek Sub-basins in Oregon, S. 310, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District in the State of Nevada, S. 519, to amend the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 to authorize additional projects and activities under that Act, and S. 592, to extend the contract for the Glendo Unit of the Missouri River Basin Project in the State of Wyoming.

SD-366

3 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine proposals to reform the regulation of the Housing Government Sponsored Enterprises.

SD-538

Armed Services

SeaPower Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the United States Marine Corps ground and rotary wing programs and seabasing in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006.

SR-232A

APRIL 20

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gregory B. Jaczko, of the District of Columbia, and Peter B. Lyons, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To continue hearings to examine proposals to reform the regulation of Housing Government-Sponsored Enterprises.

SD-538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Education and Early Childhood Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Federal role in helping parents of young children.

SD-430

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the small business health care crisis, focusing on alternatives for lowering costs and covering the uninsured.

SR-428A

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the readiness of military units deployed in sup-

port of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

SR-222

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine a review of the material support to Terrorism Prohibition Improvements Act.

SD-226

APRIL 21

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the anti-corruption strategies of the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and European Bank on Reconstruction and Development.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine structural deficits and budget process reform.

SH-216

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Association Health Plans.

SD-430

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, and the Gold Star Wives of America.

345 CHOB

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Intellectual Property Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the patent system today and tomorrow.

SD-226

APRIL 26

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the Millennium Challenge Corporation's global impact.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Retirement Security and Aging Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine pensions.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the preparedness of the Department of Agriculture and the Interior for the 2005 wildfire season, including the agencies' assessment of the risk of fires by region, the status of and contracting for aerial fire suppression assets, and other information needed to better understand the agencies ability to deal with the upcoming fire season.

SD-366

APRIL 27

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine regulation of Indian gaming.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

APRIL 28

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Higher Education Act.

SD-430

MAY 11

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation's translation program.

SD-226

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345 CHOB

CANCELLATIONS

APRIL 19

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Retirement Security and Aging Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine pensions.

SD-430

APRIL 28

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Assistance to Sudan and the Darfur Crisis.

SH-216

POSTPONEMENTS

APRIL 14

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 388, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out activities that promote the adoption of technologies that reduce greenhouse gas intensity and to provide credit-based financial assistance and investment protection for projects that employ advanced climate technologies or systems, to provide for the establishment of a national greenhouse gas registry.

SD-366